

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /051 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5553

SECDEF/ISA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 1584

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NL, BE

SUBJ: THREAT BRIEFING FOR NETHERLANDS PARLIAMENTARY
OFFICERS

REF: MY TELECON TO ASST SECY ELLSWORTH MARCH 26.

1. MOD VREDELING CALLED ME LATE AFTERNOON MARCH 26 AND REQUESTED US ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING A THREAT BRIEFING EARLY NEXT WEEK FOR CERTAIN PARLIAMENTARIANS, SPECIFICALLY THOSE FROM THE LEFT WING OF LABOR PARTY. HE OBSERVED THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL, INCLUDING PIETER DANKERT, CHAIRMAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, WHO, NOT CONVINCED OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE WARSAW PACT THREAT, OPPOSE DUTCH SELECTION OF HYPERMODERN AIRCRAFT ON GROUNDS THAT IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO ESCALATION OF ARMS RACE. IN HIS CONVERSATION VREDELING SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO APPROXIMATE FOR THEM EXCELLENT INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING HE RECEIVED FROM DR. CURRIE DURING HIS RECENT CALL ON SEC. SCHLESINGER IN WASHINGTON.

2. MOD IS ANXIOUS TO ARRANGE THIS BRIEFING FOR THE NEAR
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TIME PERIOD AND SUGGESTED APRIL 2 AS IDEAL AS THIS WOULD

PERMIT HIS ATTENDANCE PRIOR TO HIS SCHEDULED CONSORTIUM MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON APRIL 3. AS ALTERNATIVE DATES HE MENTIONED APRIL 3 OR 4.

3. SUBSEQUENT TO MOD CONVERSATION, DURING CALL FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT STAFF, LGEN WIJTING, HE AGREED TO PROVIDE THE FORUM AND HOST SUCH BRIEFING, IF WE WERE ABLE TO FURNISH ONE OR MORE AMERICAN EXPERTS ON SOVIET CAPABILITIES. I ADVISED WE WOULD DO OUR BEST TO BE ACCOMMODATING, BUT MADE NO COMMITMENTS.

4. THE BRIEFING SHOULD BE DIRECTED BOTH TO THE CURRENT AIR AND GROUND THREAT AND TO PROJECTED THREATS IN THE 1980-1990 TIME PERIOD, INCLUDING GENERAL INFORMATION ON PRESENT TYPES OF WARSAW PACT AIRCRAFT THAT WEST EUROPEANS WILL FACE ON THE CENTRAL FRONT IN THE NEXT TWO DECADES. VREDELING AND WIJTING BOTH INDICATED THAT BRIEFING WOULD BE LIMITED TO PERSONS HAVING APPROPRIATE NATO SECURITY CLEARANCES.

5. I WAS MUCH ENCOURAGED BY VREDELING'S CALL. WHILE HE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY AS MUCH, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE HAS CAST HIMSELF AS ADVOCATE FOR THE YF-16 VIS-A-VIS THE LEFT WING OF HIS PARTY WHICH IMPLIES THAT HE HIMSELF HAS ALREADY DECIDED FOR ITS SELECTION. HE NOW HAS TO SELL THIS POSITION TO A MAJORITY OF HIS OWN PARTY IN ORDER TO ASSURE HIS OWN POLITICAL FUTURE--SPECIFICALLY HE MUST OVERCOME THE ARGUMENT THAT A LESS CAPABLE REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT (E.G. F5E) WULD AVOID THE ARMS RACE. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND WE ASSIST VREDELING IN HIS ENDEAVOR BY PROVIDING EXPERTISE, MILITARY OR CIVILIAN, TO PARTICIPATE IN BRIEFING SESSION HE WANTS TO ARRANGE.
GOULD

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